

### **Remarks**

By this amendment, claims 1-28 have been cancelled, claims 29, 41, 44 and 55 have been amended, and claims 59-62 have been added. Thus, claims 29-62 are now active in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicants and their undersigned attorney wish to thank Examiner Boddie for the very helpful and courteous personal interview granted on October 9, 2008.

In the interview, a proposal was presented for amending each of the independent claims in the same manner as presented in the present amendment. After discussing the amended claims and the applied references, the Examiner agreed that the amended independent claims, requiring the first, second and third supporting members to be non-rotatable with respect to the sphere, and requiring the rotation detector to be provided separately from the support, would overcome the current rejection. Specifically, the Examiner recognized that the supporting members 94, 94, 36 in the Eleyan et al. reference are rotatable, and that it is necessary in Eleyan et al. for at least the supports 94, 94 to be rotatable since these supports 94, 94 are encoders.

Independent claims are also amended to delete “below said spheres such that said spheres rest on said first, second and third supporting members,” and that this deletion of subject matter from the independent claims was also part of the proposed amendment presented to the Examiner. As discussed with the Examiner, these limitations have been placed in dependent claims 60-62.

Also as discussed with the Examiner, previously independent claim 55 has been amended so as to depend from independent claim 29, and a new dependent claim 59 has been added also to depend from claim 29.

Thus, in view of the above, it is believed apparent that the claims clearly overcome the currently rejections and, accordingly, it is submitted that this application is now clearly in condition for allowance, and an early notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Takatoshi ONO et al.

**/Charles R Watts/**

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